

FACTS ABOUT USED OIL

- Used engine oil is the single largest source of oil pollution
- Used oil frequently contains organic and inorganic toxins that persist in the environment. The toxins are a risk to human health and adversely affect marine organisms when discharged into coastal waters.
- When used oil is recycled, a valuable resource is recovered. Only one gallon of used oil is needed to produce 2.5 quarts of lubricating oil.
- Re-refining used oil takes 70 percent less energy than refining crude oil.

IF YOU SPILL OIL

The law requires that all oil spills be reported to the Texas Oil Spill hotline by the person(s) responsible for the spill. If you see an oil spill, you are encouraged to report it immediately to 1-800-832-8224 so that it can be investigated and cleaned up.

Contact the Oil Spill Prevention
And Response Program
About These Used Oil Disposal Options

- Bilge Water Reclamation Facilities
- Skid Mounted Bilge Units/Used Oil Units
- Scupper Plug Program

LOCATIONS

AUSTIN HEADQUARTERS

Stephen F. Austin Building
P.O. Box 12873
Austin, Texas 78711-2873
512-475-1575
1-800-998-4GLO

REGION 1

2300 Hwy 365, Suite 340
Nederland, Texas 77627-6256
409-727-7481

REGION 2

11811 North D Street
La Porte, Texas 77571-9135
281-470-6597

REGION 3

Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi
Natural Resources Center
6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5847
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5847
361-825-3300

REGION 4

2145 EMS Lane
Brownsville, Texas 78521-2666
956-504-1417

REGION 5

414 Travis Street
Port Lavaca, Texas 77979
361-552-8081

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PREVENTING SMALL OIL SPILLS



Immediately Report All Oil Spills • 1-800-832-8224



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE • Jerry Patterson, Commissioner

EDUCATE • PREVENT • RESPOND

E D U C A T E • P R E V E N T • R E S P O N D



Small oil spills pose a very real threat to the survivability of our marine resources. Even the smallest amount of oil affects the vision, sense of smell, respiratory system and reproductive ability of all creatures exposed to it.

In 1991, in response to a growing problem with coastal oil spills, the Texas Legislature established the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act. The program is funded by a two-cent fee on every barrel of crude oil that passes through Texas ports.

The Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program, which is run by the Land Office, has personnel at five regional offices respond to about 1,000 spill notifications annually. They also patrol for discharges and educate vessel owners and operators about the environmental damage caused by small chronic spills.

Most spills are preventable and the application of the procedures in this guide will help prevent this needless pollution and the resulting loss of marine life.

AVOID ACCIDENTAL SPILLS

Common causes of accidental spills are:

- Discharge of oily bilge water
- Fueling errors
- Improper vessel maintenance
- Hydraulic system failures
- Preventable sinkings
- Improper handling of oil

OILY BILGE WATER

- Keep bilges clean and pump oily bilge water into a proper disposal tank
- Repair all machinery, engine and petroleum tank leaks
- Never drain engine oil into the bilge
- Never use emulsifying agents (soaps) to "hide" oil
- If an automatic bilge pump is used to keep a vessel afloat, keep bilges free of oil



PREVENTABLE SINKINGS

- Employ a total management program
- Establish periodic inspection schedules
- Use familiar mooring locations and procedures
- Ensure the vessel is rigged for rough weather even at the dock
- Arrange for marina personnel to check on the vessel: leave emergency contact numbers

PROPER HANDLING OF OIL

- Use proper leak-proof containers to store oils and fuels
- Do not mix chemicals and petroleum
- Follow directions at the Oily Bilge Center, do not leave containers unless so directed
- Drain and recycle, or dispose of filters properly



FUELING

- Learn and understand the fuel system
- Color code or label fuel lines and valves
- Plug scuppers and place collection buckets under deck vents
- Do not "top off" tanks and place a sorbent ring around fuel intake ports when fueling
- Monitor fuel level continuously

VESSEL MAINTENANCE

- Keep work areas clear of tripping hazards
- Ensure proper light and ventilation
- Test connections for leaks
- Store solvents and oils properly

HYDRAULIC SYSTEM

- Follow planned maintenance schedules
- Keep track of repairs and replacements of fittings; maintain a log
- Inspect hoses and fittings regularly